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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Ankara to EU: Privileged Partnership Not Acceptable - Sabah

Erdogan: EU to Be Global Actor or Christian Club - Milliyet

Edelman: Rejecting Turkey for EU Will be a 'Disaster' -

Hurriyet 10/2

Arab Specialists: Turkey's EU Membership a Model for Arabs -

Hurriyet

Solana: EU-Turkey Talks Will Begin on Time - Milliyet 10/2

New York Times: Turkey is EU's Future - Vatan 10/2

Rice to EU: US Opposes Nicosia's NATO Membership - Sabah

France to Declare 2006 'Year of Armenia' - Hurriyet 10/2

US Military Launches 'Iron Fist' Operation in Iraq -

Hurriyet

Israel Suspends Operations in Gaza - Tercuman

OPINION MAKERS

East, West Agree: Excluding Turkey Would be a Mistake -

Zaman 10/2

Erdogan: Turkey Won't Change Path to Democracy - Zaman

Karamanlis: European Turkey is in Interest of Europeans -

Radikal

EU Member Turkey Will be Way Out for Middle East - Zaman

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Bryza: US Determined to Rebuild Partnership with Turkey -

Zaman

Le Monde: CIA Met with PKK in Kandil Mountains - Cumhuriyet

Rice: We Will Stay in Iraq - Yeni Safak

Talabani Asks Jafari to Step down - Radikal

US Forces Target Sunni Cities in Iraq - Yeni Safak 10/2

HRW: Iraqi Insurgents Commit War Crimes - Cumhuriyet

Israeli MPs to US: Strike Iran, or We Will Do It - Yeni

Safak 10/2

Iran Threatens to Halt Oil Sales - Cumhuriyet 10/2

New Terror Attacks in Bali: 32 Killed - Radikal 10/2

BRIEFING

Last Ditch Efforts to Break EU-Turkey Deadlock: Turkish media report that the European Union failed last night to resolve the deadlock blocking the start of membership talks with Turkey. EU leaders in Luxembourg stressed, however, that a last-minute deal was still possible. 'It's a frustrating situation,' EU term president Britain's foreign secretary Jack Straw said late Sunday night, 'but I hope and

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pray that we may be able to reach an agreement.' 'We need to see Turkey in the EU and not pushed the other way,' Straw stressed. Austria is demanding that the EU consider offering a 'privileged partnership,' something less than full EU membership, for Turkey. 'The EU will either become a global actor, or limit itself to being a Christian club,' Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan warned the EU on Sunday evening. International wires report that Secretary Rice 'stepped in' on Monday to save Turkey's EU bid. The call came after Turkey objected to a clause stipulating that it could not block EU members joining international organizations and treaties. The Turks interpreted this as an effort to prevent Ankara from blocking a divided Cyprus from joining NATO. 'Rice called Erdogan this morning to give the Turks guarantees that paragraph 5 is not binding for NATO,' one European diplomat said. Erdogan reportedly told Secretary Rice on the phone that Turkey will not take further steps to secure the opening of accession talks with the EU. Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said that he may not travel to Luxembourg if Austria gets its way. Monday's "Yeni Safak" reported that FM Gul told ruling AKP lawmakers at a party meeting over the weekend that if rejected by the EU, Turkey will 'dock at another port -- any other port.' On Monday, news agencies reported that Ankara received the final version of the EU framework agreement and was studying

the document. An official told the press that FM Gul brought the document to AK Party headquarters for a final evaluation.

Edelman Warns the EU against Excluding Turkey: Turkish papers over the weekend and on Monday reported that former US Ambassador to Ankara, Eric Edelman, warned the EU that turning down Turkey would destabilize a country 'on the borders of Europe,' and that such a rejection would jeopardize democratic reforms in other Islamic countries. 'What will saying 'no' to a democratic and open society such as Turkey mean for all other countries that we call on to separate state and mosque?' Edelman asked. Edelman further warned that an EU message telling Turkey that no matter what it does it will not be admitted into the union of democratic states and open economies would bring significant, long-term, negative consequences.

DAS Bryza on US-Turkey: DAS Matt Bryza told "Zaman" in an exclusive interview in Washington that the US has decided to 'do everything' to rebuild the 'spirit of partnership' between the US and Turkey. Bryza said that the US was pleased to see the Turkish government expressing strong support for the relationship between the US and Turkey. 'The White House National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley discussed with the Turks during his visit to Ankara the need to work together to remove the PKK threat from northern Iraq and to exert joint efforts to keep Turkey inside the European family,' Bryza noted. On Syria, he said: 'I have no doubt that the US and Turkey share the same goals with regard to Syria. But in order to be at the same point regarding tactics, we need a continuous recalibration and coordination.' Bryza also noted that Undersecretary Karen Hughes 'listened' and 'watched' during her recent meetings in Turkey. 'It was good that a Turkish women's NGO, Ka-der, voiced strong views about Iraq. Such expressions help us to understand how the policies of the United States are perceived in Turkey,' Bryza stressed. Bryza ruled out US support for a military intervention against either Islamic fundamentalism or Kurdish separatism in Turkey: 'What makes Turkey strategically very important for us is its secular democracy in a country with a Muslim majority. We want to do everything necessary to strengthen democracy and the democratic institutions in Turkey. Everything that works against secular democracy is negative for us.'

Embassy Statement on US Operations against Tal Afar: Saturday papers carried a press statement by the US Embassy rejecting claims by the Chairman of the Iraqi Turkmen Democratic Party last week with regard to coalition military operations in Tal Afar. The embassy said that military operations in Tal Afar had been undertaken to eliminate insurgents who were terrorizing the people of the city, and were not directed against any ethnic group. It also said that humanitarian assistance sent by both the Turkish Red Crescent and the Iraqi transitional government had reached the civilians in Tal Afar. 'People who were displaced by the operations are returning to their homes. Reconstruction and projects to improve the city's infrastructure are already underway,' the statement said.

Iraqi Minister: Turkey a Model for Iraq: Iraqi Planning and Development Minister, Barham Salih, attended the 'Middle East Countries Economic Cooperation Forum' in Turkey's mainly Kurdish southeastern province of Diyarbakir yesterday after wrapping up official talks in Ankara last week. Salih said that Turkey, a democratic, secular and moderate country with a Muslim majority, is a good model for Iraq. Salih called on European and Turkish businessmen to invest in Iraq.

Embassy Statement on Washington Times Article: The US Embassy issued a statement on Friday with regard to an article by Frank Gaffney Jr. in the September 27 "Washington Times" which caused uproar among Turkish government and the conservative/Islamist media. The statement said that the ideas expressed in the column 'did not reflect the views of the United States Government.' 'We view Turkey as an important friend, a reliable partner, and a strong ally. Relations between Turkey and the United States are strong,' the US statement said.

Poll: Majority of Turks Want Full EU Membership: A public opinion survey conducted by "TNS Piar" for the daily "Sabah" shows that 60 percent of Turks want full EU membership for Turkey, while only 13.3 percent oppose it. 71.8 percent said that Ankara should not make concessions on Turkey's 'red lines' such as Armenian 'genocide' and recognition of Cyprus. However, they also believe that Turkey's full membership to the European bloc will bring new opportunities on health, education, employment, and human rights issues. 15.7 percent of respondents said that Turkey must seek a compromise regarding its 'red lines.' The survey was conducted on September 30-October 1 among 1,420 Turks over the age of 18 in towns and urban centers of 10 provinces.

HRW: Insurgents Commit War Crimes in Iraq: Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a 140-page report entitled 'Civilian Victims of Insurgent Groups in Iraq' issued on Monday that civilians are intimidated or killed intentionally in attacks by insurgent groups in Iraq, "Cumhuriyet" reported. The report said that the intentional targeting of civilians during armed clashes constitutes a war crime. HRW called on the political and religious authorities supporting the insurgency from inside and outside Iraq to denounce such illegal attacks.

OIC: Islam is against Radicalism: The Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Turkish Secretary-General Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu told the semi-official Anatolian News Agency (AA) that it will be difficult to bring the chaos in Iraq under control. 'It is necessary to eliminate the conditions that set the basis for terrorism. It is necessary to explain to the world that the motives and causes of terrorists are not related to religion,' Ihsanoglu told AA in Jeddah on Saturday. Ihsanoglu noted that the OIC was the only organization that includes the entire Islamic world. 'We are a security valve against radicalism,' Ihsanoglu said, and added: 'We stress that Islam is in line with democracy and development. Islam is against all radicalism. We also emphasize that anti-Islamism fuels tensions between East and West.'

Former CHP Lawmaker Joins AKP: Former main opposition CHP lawmaker Sevket Gursoy from the southeastern province of Adiyaman joined the ruling AK Party on Sunday, raising the number of AKP seats in parliament to 356. Gursoy had resigned from CHP last week.

EDITORIAL OPINION: EU/Turkey

"EU Chooses the Lose-Lose Theory"
Murat Yetkin commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (10/3): "Actually, the European countries will be deciding their own future with today's decision on the framework document for Turkey. PM Erdogan has said there is no guarantee that the EU will become a global power if Turkey becomes a full member of the EU, but that there is such a possibility. If EU leaders cannot reach a compromise on the framework document by noon today, the result will be a loss for both Turkey and the EU. The new rules of international relations theory don't support policies based on absolute winners or losers. Instead, the theory suggests that a 'win-win' outcome is the most desirable. If Turkey's membership is rejected, the EU will have contributed the 'lose-lose' scenario to political theory. But I really wonder who could benefit from such a contribution?"

"Everyone Has A Problem Digesting This"
Ergun Babahan wrote in the mass appeal "Sabah" (10/3): "At a time when some circles are trying to bring people of different beliefs and different cultures against one another, it became clear late last night that Europe has a problem 'digesting' a Muslim-majority country. In fact, when we look at history we see that this problem is not a new one. No matter how tolerant the Ottomans were toward other religions, Christian Europe remained just as rigid toward Islam. There is no question that the EU is a civilization project for us. But we shouldn't forget that Turkey didn't come into existence with the EU. If we cannot sit at the negotiating table, this won't be the end of the world. An EU that cannot digest other cultures will never become a world power or a power center. Turkey has fulfilled all of its responsibilities in the EU process. It has stood behind its commitments. If the EU fails to stand behind its word today, the historic responsibility will rest on their shoulders. Despite everything, we want to maintain our optimism and think that a last-minute agreement can be reached, because the entire region, and especially Turkey, deserve a better life."

"Forced Marriage"
Gazi Ercel opined in the mass appeal "Sabah" (10/3): "Turkey has continued its struggle for many years for membership in the EU. It is obvious that we are preparing for a forced marriage. Of course, Turkey has other alternatives -- Muslim countries in the south, Russia, or the US-Israel partnership are always possible. But none of these alternatives would ensure the high standards of living that Turkey could attain as part of the EU. The EU remains the best choice, because it can provide quality of life standards to 90 million Turks by the year 2025. That is why we have been pushing ourselves so hard. There have been some countries who have supported us in this struggle. One of them is the United States. The US has supported Turkey since the beginning of the 1990s. More recently, the US has been continuing its efforts on behalf of Turkey's EU accession through the UK. There is no doubt that there will be problems occur in the future. But Turkey really has no other choice but to walk on the EU path with calm and determined steps."

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